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It is to satisfy this need that the present attempt has been made. It is done reverently; it is done with scholarship; it has attained a fair measure of success. It deserves encouragement, and kindly rather than captious criticism. To criticise details may be easy, to improve upon the version as a colloquial version would be difficult. The work has been done by a self-constituted committee of twenty unnamed British scholars, who now issue the gospels and Acts, not in the final form which they expect the version to take, but tentatively, and with a request for criticisms. The form in which the book is printed is convenient; the free use of quotation marks (which one misses, not only in the R. V., but even, for the most part, in the work of Professor Moulton) is a great help to clearness. Quotations from or allusions to the Old Testament (including the Apocrypha and the book of Enoch) are marked by a different type. The book will not only present the New Testament in a new light to children and uneducated people, but we venture to say that its perusal will be found fruitful in suggestions to the educated reader, and even to the specialist.

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**Light from the East; or, The Witness of the Monuments:** An Introduction to the Study of Biblical Archæology. By C. J. BALL, M.A. New York: E. & J. B. Young & Co., 1899. Pp. xxxiii + 256, large 8vo. \$6.

The author of this work is already favorably known to biblical students by his *Hebrew Text of Genesis, with Critical Notes*, his *Variorum Apocrypha*, his studies of the Nebuchadrezzar texts, and other works dealing with the Old Testament and its archæology.

"The present work is the fruit of an honest endeavor to furnish Bible students who are not versed in the languages of the ancient East with some of the chief results of recent oriental research and discovery, so far as these are calculated to throw light on the text and meaning of Scripture." The author does not assume the position of an apologist, but prefers rather to present the documents of the contemporaries of the Old Testament, so that each student can make his own comparisons and draw his own conclusions.

The book is not divided into chapters, but into twelve themes, such as Mesopotamian Documents which Illustrate Genesis, Asiatics in Egypt, Egypt and Syria, The Pharaohs in Syria, Israel in Egypt, the

Exodus, and Assyrian Warfare and Military Engines. Under each one of these general topics we find a description, usually one or more illustrations, and, where possible, a translation of such documents as appear in the illustrations. The whole book presents one hundred and eleven documents, with about two hundred and fifty illustrations. These documents are found in greater abundance under some themes than under others. The Mesopotamian Documents on Genesis number twenty-five, and the illustrations, descriptions, and translations cover seventy-two pages, while those under Egypt and Syria occupy only eleven pages.

The first thing that strikes the eye is the profuseness of illustration. The whole book is resplendent with admirable reproductions, some of them in color, by the best modern processes, of the antiquities of the ancient East, which touch the times or personages of the Old Testament. The translations of the inscriptions aim to give the reader the portions which will be of most value in the understanding of the Old Testament. It is too much to say that we agree with the author's translations in every particular, but his work is such as to merit the faithful consideration of the student of the Bible. To facilitate comparison we find the Old Testament reference inset in black type on the left side of the body of the page, opposite the significant statement of an inscription. Then, to substantiate some controverted position or more fully to elucidate some vague statement, or to adduce technical evidence of some kind, the author has made use of footnotes. These are, for the most part, designed for the use of scholars, as they quite overreach the ordinary reader. The work is supplied with full tables of contents, lists of illustrations, and subject and Scripture indexes. It has also a supplement containing a list of the proper names of the Old and New Testaments.

After this bird's-eye view of the book, a careful examination of its contents convinces us that the author's work will find its level among semi-technical books on biblical archæology. It is not quite full enough to claim the popular reader, but will prove to be of greatest value to the well-advanced and up-to-date Bible student. Its attractiveness and usefulness are very greatly enhanced by its hundreds of beautiful illustrations of the choicest antiquities of the lands of the Bible. The publishers have produced a genuine work of art.

IRA M. PRICE.